

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION (37 CFR §1.121(b))

Please insert the following paragraph at page 1 of the specification after the title “Profiling Surface” and prior to the paragraph starting with “The present invention...”

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

Please insert the following paragraph at page 1 of the specification after the paragraph starting with “The present invention...” and prior to the paragraph starting with “It is known...”

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Please insert the following paragraph at page 2 of the specification after the paragraph starting with “Similarly, because the...” and prior to the paragraph starting with “The invention seeks...”

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Please insert the following paragraph at page 3 of the specification after the paragraph starting with “In a preferred...” and prior to the paragraph starting with “The present invention will now be described...”

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Please insert the following paragraph prior to the first paragraph at page 4 of the specification.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED VERSIONS OF THE INVENTION

Please insert the following Abstract following the claims, such Abstract also being provided on a separate sheet accompanying this Preliminary Amendment, as per 37 CFR §1.72(b):

A bed (10) or trolley or similar consists of a platform (20) comprising a back section (21), seat section (22), thigh section (23) and foot section (24). The "auto contour" controls are configured such that when the sections (21, 23, 24) are driven from a flat condition, the back (21) and thigh (23) sections are moved simultaneously, until they reach the same angle. The thigh section (23) then remains at that position and the back section (21) continues until it reaches its maximum position. To lower the sections using the "auto contour" controls only the back section (21) is driven down until it reaches the equivalent position to the thigh section (23) and then both sections (21, 23) are driven down simultaneously. The patient is held in a relatively constant position, thereby reducing the shear between the patient's skin and the support surface.